

REMARKS

Claims 1–4, 11–14, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Adee (U.S. 4,066,274). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states on page 2 of the present office action, “folding means...to bring outer ends of the wing sections forward...as illustrated in Fig. 2.” The forward direction was referenced in the specification of the instant application on line 8, page 5 and line 22, page 7. The implement of Adee has a “tongue 10 provided with a hitch 12 at its forwardmost end...” (col. 1 lines 45–46), thus Adee’s definition of “forward” is clear. The outer ends of the wing sections in the apparatus of Adee are brought *backward*, not forward during folding, as is clear by the definitions, above, and by comparing Fig. 1 with Fig 2 in the patent of Adee. In the instant application, each of the independent claims 1, 11, and 19 specify that the outer ends of the wing sections are brought *forward* during folding. Amended claim 11 specifies that the outer ends of the wing sections are brought toward the forward end of the tongue during folding. Support for this change is found in the specification on page 5 line 8.

Because of the proximity of the implement to the tractor (or other source of motive power), wherein the tractor is ahead (in the forward direction) of the implement, folding a long toolbar such as that disclosed in the instant invention *forward* presents a nontrivial challenge. This is in contrast to folding backward, wherein proximity to the tractor is irrelevant. The toolbar of the instant invention successfully overcomes the obstacle of space or room for forward folding. Since it has been clearly shown that the instant invention is not anticipated by Adee, Applicants believe independent claims 1, 11, and 19 are allowable. Hence, dependent claims 2–4, 12–14, and 20 are also assumed to be allowable.

Claims 5–10 and 15–18, objected to in the office action, are also assumed allowable in their present form.

New claims 21–23 have been added to further define the invention. Reference to the hitch is found in the original specification on page 8, line 16.

Accordingly, because all remaining claims 1-23 are believed to be clearly allowable,
a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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